

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OIC-04 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /170 W

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P 261950Z APR 74

FM USDEL ATLANTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0038

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DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POST, BELIZE AND LONDON.

USDEL 20.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: GENERAL COMMITTEE VOTES TO POSPONE BRITISH OBSERVERSHIP
APPLICATION UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

1. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE VOTED 15 TO 6, WITH ONE ABSTENTION
AND ONE ABSENCE TO POSTPONE UNTIL NEXT YEAR'S MEETING OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY GREAT BRITAIN'S APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT
OBSERVERSHIP. THE SIX OPPOSING VOTES WERE UNITED STATES,
JAMAICA BARBADOS, MEXICO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND CHILE.
COLOMBIA ABSTAINED AND HAITI WAS ABSENT.

2. PARAGUAY (SOLANO LOPEZ) PROPOSED THE POSTPONEMENT. PRIMARILY
ON GROUNDS THAT THERE HAD BEEN INSUFFICIENT TIME FOR CONSIDERING
THE MATTER. GUATEMALA (ARENALES) AND ARGENTINA (QUIJANO)
SPOKE BRIEFLY OF THE TERRITORIAL DIFFERENCES VIS-A-VIS GREAT
BRITAIN AND SUPPORTED THE PARAGUAYAN MOTION. VENEZUELA, BRAZIL
AND BOLIVIA ALSO SUPPORTED PARAGUAY.

3. BARBADOS (MCCOMIE) SPOKE AGAINST REFERRING THE MATTER TO NEXT
YEAR'S OASGA -- AND OFFERED AN AMENDMENT WHEREBY THE MATTER WOULD BE
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DECIDED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR. JAMAICA (FLETCHER)

PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO REFER THE MATTER TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR SOLUTION. COLOMBIA (VAZQUEZ) AND URUGUAY (MARQUES-SERE) SPOKE IN FAVOR OF DECIDING THE ISSUE IMMEDIATELY.

4. AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD SPOKE AND MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS: "THE U.S. REGRETS THAT THE PROPOSAL IS NOW BEFORE US TO DECLINE TO ACT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF AN ISSUE WHICH TWO-THIRDS OF OUR MEMBERS, ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO, VOTED TO PUT ON OUR AGENDA. I WILL NOT RECITE THE HISTORY OF THE APPLICATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR THE STATUS OF PERMANENT OBSERVER. THE FACTS ARE KNOWN TO US ALL. MY GOVERNMENT RESPECTS THE VIEWS OF OTHERS WHO OPPOSE THE GRANTING OF THIS REQUEST ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT SEE ANY LEGITIMATE CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS QUESTION AND ANY BILATERAL PROBLEMS SOME MEMBERS MAY HAVE WITH GREAT BRITAIN. WE BELIEVE THAT HER YEARS OF ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH OAS PROGRAMS ENTITLE THE U.K. TO THE STATUS SHE HAS REQUESTED AND THAT SHE DESERVES BETTER TREATMENT AT OUR HANDS THAN TO BE PUT OFF FOR ANOTHER YEAR. MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER THE U.S. WILL VOTE AGAINST THE PROPOSAL TO DUCK THIS ISSUE."

5. PANAMA (PITTY) CHALLENGED THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD TOTALLY REPLACE THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL AND WAS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO IT. THE CHAIRMAN, FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES OF ECUADOR, FOLLOWING ADVICE BY OAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL URQUIA, RULED THAT PANAMA WAS CORRECT AND THAT THE BARBADOS AND JAMAICAN PROPOSALS COULD NOT BE VOTED BEFORE THE PARAGUAYAN MOTION. THUS, THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS WERE NEVER VOTED ON.

6. FOLLOWING THE VOTE URUGUAY EXPLAINED THAT HIS DELEGATION WOULD HAVE SUPPORTED THE JAMAICAN PROPOSAL HAD IT NOT BEEN RULED OUT OF ORDER.

7. COMMENT: SEVERAL DELEGATIONS FELT THAT THE CHAIR'S RULING WAS PROBABLY ERRONEOUS, BUT NO ONE CHALLENGED IT, SINCE IT WAS FELT THAT LATIN SOLIDARITY WOULD HAVE DEFEATED THE AMENDMENT IN ANY EVENT. MOST LATINS, RELUCTANT TO AFFRONT GREAT BRITAIN, WELCOMED POSTPONEMENT AS A WAY OF AT LEAST OSTENSIBLY REMAINING NEUTRAL, THOUGH THEY WERE AWARE THAT BRITAIN MAY WELL NOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITHDRAW ITS APPLICATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 26 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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